

his death was not in vain and that it moves our forces one step closer to home and to peace in the Middle East.

We may disagree with the wars that are being waged by our Commander in Chief, but that should never negate the courage of our Nation's immigrants who have answered the call to duty and have made the ultimate sacrifice.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF FIRST LIEUTENANT GEORGE WESLEY HOFSESS

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 7, 2007

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and memory of First Lieutenant George Wesley Hofsess, who recently passed away at his Ventura, CA home on July 21, 2007. Lieutenant Hofsess dedicated his life to his family and his country. His courage and his commitment to excellence were exemplary both at home and on duty.

Lieutenant Hofsess was born on August 5, 1915 in Partridge, Kansas where he grew up on a small farm. He attended Kansas State University where he met the love of his life, Frances Ann Esmond. They were happily married on June 8, 1940. Upon graduating from Kansas State University, Lieutenant Hofsess decided to dedicate his life to the service, enlisting in the U.S. Army Air Force on May 28, 1942.

Lieutenant Hofsess was assigned to the 709th Bomb Squadron, 447th Bomb Group, as a pilot of a B-17 Bomber, Plane 1091. He was stationed in England during World War II and served valiantly there, flying 28 missions over Nazi-occupied Europe. For a time, Lieutenant Hofsess was reported missing in action over France.

Eventually, Mrs. Hofsess was notified by the Washington Provost Marshall General that Second Lieutenant George W. Hofsess was a prisoner of war in Nuremburg concentration camp #4274.

On December 28, 1944, Mrs. Hofsess received a letter from the War Department, stating that by direction of the President, the Air Medal and one Oak-leaf Cluster had been awarded to Second Lieutenant George W. Hofsess for "exceptionally meritorious achievement" and for displaying "courage, coolness and skill." As these awards could not be formally presented to Lieutenant Hofsess, they were presented to Mrs. Hofsess.

Lieutenant Hofsess earned his medals many times over. At the time his plane was shot down, he suffered burns to his face and hands while successfully evacuating his entire crew from the plane. During his imprisonment in the concentration camp, his older brother, Lieutenant Colonel Russell Hofsess, with the famous Seventh Army, began a tireless search for him.

Finally, just before Germany surrendered, Lieutenant Hofsess was found. He walked out of the prison camp and into the arms of his older brother.

First Lieutenant George W. Hofsess was Honorably Discharged from service on November 25, 1945. He lived the following years as a civilian, caring for his family and his friends.

On July 21, 2007, First Lieutenant George Wesley Hofsess peacefully passed at the age of 91. He is survived by his wife of 67 years, Frances Ann Hofsess; his daughter Anne Stamos and her husband Lucas of San Jose, CA; his daughter Julie Antal and her husband Tom of Minneapolis, MN; and his grandson, Grant Murray, of San Jose. Lieutenant Hofsess left a legacy of bravery and selflessness through his service to his country. Throughout his life, he fought to protect peace and freedom and was a loving husband and father. We are forever grateful for his service to this nation and the world. The contributions of First Lieutenant George W. Hofsess will not be forgotten and he will be sorely missed.

LIFELONG IMPROVEMENTS IN FOOD AND EXERCISE ACT (LIFE)

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 7, 2007

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today I introduce the Lifelong Improvements in Food and Exercise Act (LIFE), a national initiative to attack growing problems of overweight and obesity now found in Americans of every age, race, and major demographic group. The LIFE bill would provide \$15 million in funding to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) for a major effort to reverse increasingly sedentary lifestyles and diets that are high in fat and sugar.

I introduce the bill today because of the startling and steadily increasing rates of obesity among adults and children in the United States. Currently, 64.5 percent of adults, aged 20 years and older, are overweight and 32.2 percent of adults (over 66 million) are obese. According to the National Women's Health Information Center, 50 percent of women aged 20 to 74 are overweight or obese. Young people are no better off—the percentage of children who are overweight has more than doubled, and among adolescents the rates have tripled since 1980 increasing from 5 percent to 17.1 percent. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) reports that Type 2 diabetes, considered an adult disease, is now widespread in children. The health care system is already paying the price, and the consequences to kids will follow them throughout their lives. These kids, ages 10 to 15, have a 80 percent chance of being overweight adults, with the health conditions that follow, such as high blood pressure, heart disease and cancer.

The LIFE bill directs the CDC to pursue obesity and sedentary lifestyles in three ways: train health professionals to recognize the signs of obesity early and educate people concerning healthful alternatives, such as proper nutrition and regular exercise; conduct public education campaigns to teach the public about how to recognize and address overweight and obesity; and develop intervention strategies to be used in everyday life in worksites and community settings. This important legislation is the minimum necessary to address this major health care crisis. Already, chronic diseases, many of which are caused or exacerbated by overweight or obesity, account for 70 percent of all deaths in the U.S., which is 1.7 million each year and 60 percent of U.S. medical care expenses yearly. According to the Surgeon General's Call to Action to Prevent and

Decrease Overweight and Obesity, the cost of obesity in the United States in 2000 was more than \$117 billion.

A focused national health initiative is necessary because unhealthy lifestyles have become a normal part of everyday life. Participation in high school physical education classes has dropped from 42 percent in 1991 to 33 percent in 2005, accounting at least for part of the reason that one-third of young people in grades 9–12 do not regularly engage in physical activities. National data show an increase in unhealthy eating habits for adults and no change in physical activity. Changes in nutrition are equally critical because 60 percent of young people consume too much fat, a factor in the doubling in the percentage of overweight youth.

I urge my colleagues to join with me in support of this important legislation to mobilize the country now before entirely preventable health conditions that begin in children overwhelm the nation's health care system.

TRIBUTE TO MASTER WAN KO YEE

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 7, 2007

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, one of the fundamental principles on which this Nation was founded is freedom of religion and respect for the religious beliefs of others. Religious tolerance and the freedom of religion for individuals to believe what they choose is one of the underlying concepts essential to our democratic system of government. Madam Speaker, it is in that spirit that I want to pay tribute to Master Wan Ko Yee, who has been recognized by world-renowned Buddhist masters as Dorje Chang Buddha III, the true incarnation of the primordial Buddha of the Buddhist faith in accordance with the rules of recognizing the incarnation in Buddhism.

Master Yee was born in Sichuan, China, and like many individuals over the last four centuries, has come to this land where there is greater opportunity and freedom to teach and practice his religion. As Master Yee said, "The American people are kind and noble. People can freely believe in religion in the United States, a country that is spiritually wealthy, powerful, and blessed."

I am pleased that he has found a new home in my own home state of California, where many Americans of diverse backgrounds have embraced principles of Buddhism, which include showing compassion toward others, benefiting others, being selfless, and striving for enlightenment and liberation.

Master Yee, who is recognized as His Holiness Wan Ko Yeshe Norbu, the Buddha Vajradhara Great Dharma King by the leaders of different sects of Buddhism in the world, has established a temple in San Francisco. Other similar places of worship for the benefit of believers have been established in other cities in California, New York, Washington, DC and abroad.

Master Yee not only is a widely recognized and admired Buddhist thinker and teacher, Madam Speaker, but he also is an artist whose work has been widely acknowledged and exhibited. His work includes a number of very different styles and media, including traditional Chinese calligraphy, traditional Chinese